

WEATHER FORECAST

100-125. Low of 100 means mostly cloudy skies with occasional showers. High of 125 means mostly sunny with occasional showers and thunderstorms.

11:00 AM, Manila

Second FRONT PAGE

This newspaper's front page is a computer-generated image in 2007 (Globe) or 2011 (Sunstar)

Area	Forecast	Area	Forecast
Manila	100-125	Baguio	100-125
Albany	100-125	Butte	100-125
Alor	100-125	Butte	100-125
Alor	100-125	Butte	100-125
Alor	100-125	Butte	100-125
Alor	100-125	Butte	100-125
Alor	100-125	Butte	100-125
Alor	100-125	Butte	100-125
Alor	100-125	Butte	100-125
Alor	100-125	Butte	100-125

Davide retiring next month

THE JUDGE, AND BAR CHIEF of yesterday announced the retirement next month of Chief Justice Renato Corona. The order, however, is not final as it must be approved by the Senate.

Corona, who was appointed to head the highest court in 1998 by then President Fidel Ramos, will be serving his post upon his retirement on Dec. 31, 2005, the JSC said.

The five justices who were automatically reappointed to succeed Corona were Reynato Puno, Antonio Panganiban, Leonardo Quinsion, Conrado Yap, and Angelina Tiamoco-Solano.

The JSC has set Nov. 30, 2005

as the deadline for the submission of applications or recommendations for the position of Chief Justice, according to the new constitution signed by chief of state Ma. Arroyo.

The recommendation must be accompanied by a consent letter or note from the recommenders, which should also be submitted by Nov. 30.

The application and recommendation should be filed with the JSC secretary at the SC of the Philippines in Manila.

Under the Constitution, the JSC is mainly responsible for recommending appointments in judiciary.

The members of the high court and lower court judges are appointed by the President from lists of nominees prepared by the JSC. These lists of appointments need no congressional confirmation.

Of the nominees, Puno has been with the court the longest, having been appointed on June 28, 1995.

The next most senior justice is Panganiban, who was appointed on Oct. 5, 1995.

Quinsion joined the court on Jan. 15, 1996, followed by Yap on April 6, 1996. Corona was appointed on Dec. 31, 2000. *Archie B. Solano*

Miriam cries
coup again,
is laughed off

By TJ Ragsdale

THINGS WILL SUPPOSEDLY come to a head in December.

With the backing of the military, certain opposition leaders are pushing the government and forcing President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to step down before the end of the year. Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said yesterday.

"The issue on the political spectrum is that the President will be removed by December," Santiago told reporters.

A month ago, Santiago said the President, Arroyo, had the support of the opposition but not the support of the military. She said, but did not clearly say so.

"Apparently, the position before them is a crisis with the support of the military of the opposition because certain leaders of the opposition are expected to be supporting military lead on," she said, but did not clearly say so.

Santiago's statement is the first time she has said the opposition is expected to be supporting military lead on.

It was the second time Santiago said coup. Last month, she said former President Corason Aquino and former President Franklin Delano were planning a coup with Oct. 15 as the target date. She said she was not in the office, she said a "chattering" relation of Delano as her source.

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GMA vows to keep bird flu away

By Christine O. Avendaño
and Doris C. Dumalao

PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-Arroyo says her government will deal with the deadly avian flu virus with the same determination and effective measures that kept the dreaded SARS virus away from the country three years ago.

"Like what we did in the SARS campaign, we will do this (campaign) again until the danger lapses," Ms Arroyo said in a televised roundtable discussion late Wednesday night.

She made the pledge as the World Bank warned that the dreaded avian flu virus, now endemic among poultry flocks in many countries in East Asia, could wreak havoc on regional economies next year, not necessarily because of death or illness but due to panic and mismanagement by both the public and private sectors.

The President said the program was the first of daily updates and bulletins that her "bird flu watch team," headed by Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban, would be issuing to keep the public aware of the new health threat and ways to fight it.

Recent measures taken by the government include monitoring 20 areas where migratory birds, which are believed to carry the virus, tend to head in the months of October until February; keeping ducks from these areas; and the installation of

nets and other "virus security measures" around poultry farms.

While acknowledging that a global pandemic could result in sizeable loss of economic production from sharp reductions in the labor force due to illness or death, the World Bank said that the most immediate adverse effects might come "from the uncoordinated efforts of private individuals to avoid becoming infected, as well as public policy actions like quarantines and travel restrictions."

It said these could lead to "severe demand shocks for services sectors such as tourism, mass transport, retail, hotels and restaurants etc, as well as supply shocks due to workplace disruption."

The bank made this assessment in its East Asia and Pacific update released yesterday.

"Since in the present crisis animal and human health considerations are closely linked, the response to the influenza threat needs an integrated cross-sectoral approach that brings together agriculture, animal health, human health, finance and other key agencies and experts, with strong support and leadership at the highest political level," it said.

At the political level, the report said, an honest, transparent public information policy would be critical in winning the trust and confidence of the population, thus minimizing panic and disruption.

DFA not happy with US reply

FOREIGN SECRETARY ALBERTO ROMULO was apparently dissatisfied with the explanation given by US Embassy officials regarding classified reports sent to Washington pointing to an alleged coup plot against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

A day after the top American diplomat in Manila dismissed the media reports quoting the documents as painting a "distorted" picture of Philippine-US relations, Romulo said he wanted to get a "fuller report" on the matter.

"They have promised to give us a fuller report," the secretary said in a press briefing yesterday. "Obviously we want to know what was distorted, what statement did they actually make, if at all they made any statement."

"We will certainly pursue this, there's no question about it," Romulo said.

Romulo made the remarks after the *Inquirer* asked him what he thought of the explanation US Chargé d'Affaires

Paul Jones gave the other day when the latter was summoned to the DFA to shed light on the embassy reports, including one that linked former President Fidel Ramos to an anti-Arroyo plot.

The American diplomat met with Foreign Undersecretary Edsel Custodio, who was in charge of the DFA while Romulo was in the US.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Jones refused to comment on the documents, which were the subject of a series of *Inquirer* stories the past two months.

Instead, he reiterated "our strong view" that media reports "allegedly based on those documents distort completely the relationship that we have with the Philippines and the relationship that we value with individuals across the political spectrum."

Volte Contrarias

Defensor won't attend mock trial

By Christine O. Avendaño

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY Michael Defensor will not be appearing before the so-called people's court, which is set to begin next week the trial of President Macapagal-Arroyo for crimes she allegedly committed against the people, including stealing the 2004 election.

"Based on some of his latest messages, he's (Defensor) not pushing through (with his appearance before the Citizens' Congress for Truth and Accountability)," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters yesterday.

Asked if President Arroyo had asked Defensor not to attend the trial, Bunye said he did not know, but surmised the environment secretary had read about it in news reports.

Defensor told the *Inquirer* he had been advised by Malacañang officials not to appear before the court because it was all a "setup." He said he was heeding their advice.

"I am told the people there have decided, that it's dominated by the Left, and it will be a kangaroo proceeding," Defensor said in a phone interview.

Defensor said that, for one thing, he found a "weary concept" the CCTA's use of the term *presidium* for the body that will try the President, a term used in the then communist Soviet Union.

Still, he said, should the CCTA prove to be objective in its composition, process and proceedings, he might change his mind.

Defensor said he wanted to appear before the people's court to tell it that President Arroyo did win last year's election contrary to the opposition's claim.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Defensor had told him he was sending someone else to the trial, set to begin on Nov. 8.

Ermita said Defensor's backing out of the trial was good news for the Palace, since the people's court "should not be dignified."

Terror suspect sent to Basilan

By Luigi A. del Puerto

QUEZON: BUREAU A DETENTION WORKER 199 to Basilan yesterday confirmed by the word of an informant he was the name "Wito Tagaling" wanted by the authorities for taking part in the 2001 kidnapping of local and foreign tourists from the Dos Palomas resort in Palawan.

"By now, he is already on his way to Basilan to face the court that awaits the western tourists," said Director Vital Quizon, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office. He was referring to Arnel Salih, whom police arrested in Sagay City over the weekend along with another man identified only as Maric.

Quizon cited by the word of an informant who had led police to Salih, even though an intelligence officer at the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame said Salih had no derogatory record and was more likely not the same "Wito Tagaling" tagged in the Dos Palomas kidnapping.

"We have an informant who said he is Wito Tagaling," Quizon said. Then, displaying a document which Salih had purportedly signed when he was booked, Quizon added: "Look here, he signed his name as Arnel Salih Flaminio aka Abu Tagaling."

The intelligence officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said last Wednesday that until his arrest, Salih had no criminal record

and had not been linked to any warlike or kidnapping groups. He assumed that Salih was arrested simply because he was also known as "Wito Tagaling," which he said was a common alias.

In fact, the intelligence officer added, police had already arrested one Abu Tagaling linked to the Dos Palomas kidnapping and were looking for at least two more. The suspect on which Salih was arrested bore only the name Abu Tagaling. A Baguio-based Islamic affiliate, Ismail Magallana, said earlier that Salih, a native of Basilan, had been living in Baguio since 1997. He was a volunteer kitchen helper at the local Alimul Uloom Educational Center, the largest Islamic institution in Northern Luzon.

Quizon said that after Salih has been presented to the Basilan court, police will ask the judge to have the suspect detained in Marikina.

The Dos Palomas kidnapping occurred in May 2003 when about 20 heavily armed men ransacked divers on the resort and abducted 20 vacationers, including the American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Baumbach. The hostages were taken to Basilan where some of them were beheaded, including the American tourist Guillermo Sobero.

Quizon said troops eventually located the other hostages in an operation in which Maric Baumbach was killed along with Edilberto Top, a Filipino man.

Muslims end Ramadan with a bang

CEBU CITY—MUSLIMS IN MINDANAO welcomed the end of the fasting month of Ramadan, finally with a bang, as hundreds of people with guns fired their weapons to celebrate the end of the holy ritual at Pit.

The gunfire and discharges of explosives actually started, Jan. Wednesday in Marikina in Mindanao divided off from that resort to resort but did last minute shopping for sweets, clothes and even ahead of the three-day holiday to celebrate the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan.

The revelry resumed very early yesterday as Muslims thronged the mosques at the start of the first annual call for volunteers in the three areas that usually involve firing guns into the air.

At dawn yesterday, nearly 5,000 Muslims gathered at two open-air fields in Cagayan City for congregational prayers.

A leading Muslim cleric, Imam Abu Arif Ali, urged Muslims not to fire guns to the air to greet Eid al-Fitr. Such customs have become tradition in a region awash with

weapons, though Justice Minister said that "it is not in accordance with Islam."

Police reported at least two people injured after being hit by stray bullets.

But at Pit, Arif Ali "banned" all the leveling the fact," is a time for family gatherings that yesterday were expected to leave the resort of Marikina cities virtually empty as visitors and friends visit one another's homes to partake of food.

For the next two days, people throng the parks and other public places, with children deluged out in new clothes brought in the occasion.

A 31-year-old resident of Barangay Poblacion 3 was injured when he tried to prevent a neighbor from firing his gun on Wednesday.

Police said the victim grabbed the 60-, 45-pistol of a Muslim neighbor but it went off, hitting him in his right palm.

A 30-year-old man from Zamboanga district was also hurt when a powerful "bangkok" firecracker exploded before he could toss it. Edilberto D. Rematista, PH Mindanao Bureau, with 40

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2005

Senate to call Mike A at 'proper time'

By TJ Burgonio

FIRST GENTLEMAN JOSE MIGUEL "MIKE" Arroyo will have his day in the Senate but "at the proper time."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who is leading the Senate inquiry into the "Hello Garci" tape scandal, said Arroyo was "not the top priority" on the list of resource persons to be invited to the next scheduled hearing.

"He will be invited at the proper time because there are other witnesses yet to be invited," said Biazon, who chairs the committee on national defense and security.

Biazon was reacting to a suggestion from Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel for the committee to summon Arroyo while he was still in the country to answer charges that he flew to Mindanao just days before the May 2004 elections to deliver P500 million.

"I don't think he's covered by EO 464," Pimentel said, referring to the Sept. 28 executive order barring administration, police and military officials from appearing before congressional inquiries without the consent of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Biazon committee has opened an inquiry into whether there was a breach of national security when the President's conversations with elections commissioner Virgilio Garcillano were tapped.

The President and Garcillano were alleged to be conspiring to rig the 2004 elections in the tapped conversations.

Testifying before the Biazon committee on Sept. 28, Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani claimed to have received information that Arroyo twice flew to Mindanao two days before the elections to deliver money amounting to P500 million.

The lawyer of the First Gentleman, who was abroad at the time of the hearing, has denied the charges.

Biazon said he would set the next hearing after he returns from an official trip abroad on Nov. 13.

The senator said the witnesses to be called would be asked to submit affidavits before their appearance at the hearing.

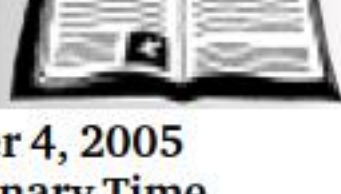
Biazon said he hoped the Supreme Court would have ruled on the constitutionality of EO 464 by then.

"If it's constitutional, then we will have to establish a modus vivendi between the executive and the legislative. There must be a mechanism to ensure the availability of government functionaries who are asked to testify," he said.

Biazon has deferred resuming the inquiry until after the SC rules on the controversial order lest witnesses would suffer the fate of Gudani and another witness, Col. Alexander Balutan.

Gudani and Balutan were ordered sacked and investigated by the military top brass for defying EO 464 and appearing at the Senate hearing.

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Friday, November 4, 2005

31st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:

Rom 15:14-21

Gospel:

Luke 16:1-8

Jesus told his disciples, "There was a rich man whose steward was reported to him for fraudulent service. He summoned the steward and asked him: 'What is this I hear about you? I want you to render an account of your service for it is about to be terminated.'

"The steward thought to himself: 'What am I to do now? My master will surely dismiss me. I am not strong enough to do hard work, and I am ashamed to beg. I know what I will do: I must make sure that when I am dismissed, there will be some people to welcome me into their house.'

"So he called his master's debtors one by one. He asked the first who came: 'How much do you owe my master?' The reply was: 'A hundred jars of oil.' The steward said: 'Here is your bill. Sit down quickly and write there fifty.' To the second he put the same question: 'How much do you owe?' The answer was: 'A thousand bushels of wheat.' Then he said: 'Take your bill and write eight hundred.'

"The master commended the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the people of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the people of light."

Commentary

We are drawing near to the end of liturgical time, to judgment and reflections upon the end of all things, all history and the stories call us to attend to our own histories and turn, once again into the heart and Word of God. Now it is a rich man who has a steward who has to render an account of his service, because he is going to be terminated. He's in a quandry on what to do, so he tries to undo some of the cheating he has done in his master's service. He calls in those who owe debts and cuts them, half here, a quarter here, a bit there. The master hears and is pleased because he was so astute in providing a position for himself when he is out of his master's service. Are we so astute? Do we need to undo some of what we've done but forgiving others' debts? Do we need to be as careful and astute about what God has entrusted to us as this wily steward. Lord, have mercy on us and help us learn to use all our resources to serve the needs of others and live in your kingdom now and forever. Amen.

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GMA pact with Ramos, De Venecia a 'shameful deal,' says Pimentel

LEAGUE MINGUELTA
League Aquilino, Pimentel, and Pimentel
personnel President
Macapagal Arroyo
of making a "shameful deal" with House Speaker Juan De Venecia and former President Fidel Ramos in their controversial agreement to order to let a legally "prohibited" law stay in effect.

Now the pact is out of the bag, Pimentel says he is not a lawyer of any kind in any way. Pimentel said.

The speaker said Mr. Arroyo would be allowed to serve as he has been used to do as a "prohibited person" with a presidential pardon.

Pimentel said the President's "half-sitting position" indicated that the case severely using charter change in printing for days in

power and down as a political move to nullify his designation of speaker.

In the deal, Pimentel said, "Juan De Venecia and the President must not shut but stay open."

Pimentel said the three leaders' agreement to shut in the presidential term in 2007 was a mockery of the constitutional elected term process.

He said the three promised the presidential Commission and the Congress on the issue of whether the speaker's term would be cut down if there

is a shift to a presidential system.

Pimentel said

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2005

The WORLD

Pakistan quake toll tops 73,000

MUHAMMABAD, PAKISTAN—CIVILIAN ON Wednesday dramatically increased the official death toll from the devastating earthquake that hit the north of the country last month to 73,276 and said it could rise further.

Federal Relief Commissioner Iqbal, Gen. As. Iqbal Khan said the death toll from a figure of 57,000 given a day earlier could be added to concerted efforts to clear debris under the 100,000 deaths.

"Unfortunately the death toll has risen to 73,276 and the number of injured is over 60,000," he told a news conference.

"There was a landslide in another town," another 1,000 have been confirmed dead in Indian Kashmir.

Khan said those listed as injured were actually lost.

Pakistan's federal and adjoining North India Prime Ministers have the bones of the 7.6-magnitude quake.

It was the strongest to hit South Asia in 100 years and left more than seven million people in need of emergency shelter with a faster the monsoon winter approaching.

Khan said the government had received around \$2 billion in pledges for the massive task of reconstruction, all may close of its cost estimate of more than \$5 billion.

Pakistan hopes to raise more at a Nov. 20 donors' conference to be attended by 150 foreign leaders.

The United Nations, leading a massive international relief effort, says donors have failed to provide sufficient funds for emergency shelter and warned that as many people who died in the quake could perish in the winter unless help is forthcoming.

Imran Khan, president of Pakistan's government of the third time, visited its eastern province of Balochistan, the badly damaged capital of Pakistan Quetta, and spoke of a

two square the approaching winter.

He said the UNICEF was sending 10,000 people a day and hoped to cover the needs of 1.5 million by the second half of November.

Reuters



A KASHMIRI girl holding her brother's remains after receiving food supplies at a makeshift relief camp in Muammarabad, the capital of Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

AP/WIDEWORLD

Thousands protest on Bush poll anniversary

SAN FRANCISCO—THOUSANDS OF Americans staged noisy demonstrations across the United States to protest the policies of President George W. Bush on the first anniversary of his election.

Amid a strong police presence, angry demonstrators on Wednesday chanted and marched in places, with demonstrators in or close to the war in Iraq. Bush's economic policies and his administration's response to deadly hurricanes Katrina.

The protest in cities including San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York and Chicago were organized by a coalition

of opponents to the administration called "The World Can Wait (since the Bush Regime)" that urged employees to skip work and children to skip school to protest.

In the third New country of San Francisco, up to 4,000 marching protesters chanted the city's slogan in a protest during which a Bush supporter threatened to police. He was injured in the incident.

"I'm not the Bush regime! The world can wait!" "Bush Lies, People Die" and "The people wanted will never be divided" the crowd chanted.

About 71 people arrested, mostly

for blocking streets, but two were picked up for protesting without permits, according to police.

Police in Los Angeles say how many people were involved in that demonstration, but Dave Williams, who helped organize the march, said between 1,000 and 1,500 people showed up.

In Los Angeles to the south, around 700 people marched through western suburbs of the sprawling city. The protest march lacked off when 100 students walked out of their high schools to join the demonstration outside federal government offices, and other local officials' offices.

AP

Recto proposes cut in personal income tax

MANILA (PNA) SEN. RAJAY RECTO is proposing that Congress legislate a measure to increase personal income tax exemptions alongside wage increase bill.

Recto, chair of the committee on wage and income, yesterday pointed out that raising personal income tax exemptions would serve as a tax relief and trigger "wages the benefit" benefits. This, he said, would have the same effect as a wage increase because "income that will no longer be retained as withholding tax will be converted to purchasing power instead of being retained to the taxpayer."

"We should expand the means of options because even all our benefits from a wage increase," Recto said in a statement.

"Effectively one in five companies would comply with the minimum wage law not because it's unfair, but because it simply cannot pay that much of income, if it follows the law, it has to shut down and close production, the work is over," he said.

Recto has filed a bill proposing a 20-per-

cent cut in individual income taxes while Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile has a similar bill seeking a 30-percent cut.

In the House of Representatives, Aldeguer party boss Rep. (Interim) has filed a bill seeking to slash income taxes to provide relief to taxpayers.

However, along with Minimum Wage Increase Bill, 1000 (House Bill 1000), Recto wants to increase tax exemption to P50,000 annually, with a 20-percent increase in tax exemption for different wage brackets.

A family with an annual income of P500,000, for instance, will pay P12,000 in taxes instead of P17,700 in the current tax schedule, according to the bill.

Representative Dennis Cusi (Cebu, Cebu City) and Douglas Caga (Davao, Davao City) and plan to introduce on the wage increase proposal, should the law be passed, a new wage bracket for low and medium wage earners.

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Pay hike offered party-list ...

Representative

Recto said a legislative measure to increase wages and raise personal income tax exemptions to offset the cash drain the VAT law would be on their own merits.

With the VAT law having been enacted into law, Recto and his fellow party list representatives are now lobbying for their bills.

"When the House leaders were trying to move the VAT bill, they said that we should support it first, then we will get the minimum wage bill," Recto said.

Asked why he had stuck to the law on behalf of the administration, Recto replied, "I know (House) Speaker Prospero Nograles and (House) Vice-Speaker ..."

But how much?

Recto welcomed Nograles' announcement on Wednesday that it would support a legislative wage cut.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said Congress to prioritize the immediate passage of a bill raising the minimum wage but the bill of raising the minimum wage would be a long-term measure to be taken after the 2007 law.

"I asked the committee to raise a reasonable minimum wage law on top of the legislative agenda to ease the burden on our workers," the President said in a speech in Balinguaya.

Asked by how much the Arroyo administration's minimum wage law, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said the President had left the matter of determining the "reasonable" wage adjustment to Congress in consultation with the government and unions.

Although new bills are pending in Congress proposing a P125 increase in the daily minimum wage, Recto said his group was not too keen on pushing any of them.

Recto and his group would only see the Legislative Council Development Advisory Council (LAC) in the near future.

There are more voices of dissent within the Cabinet who feel that a "topical" move like a raised wage increase would put a pall over the economic growth and eventually lead to recession.

DOLE unconvinced

Labor Secretary Edwin M. Sison is backing away from the pro-

posed wage hike.

"We need stability in the wage system," he said. "If we have wage increases in every year, we will have to raise wages every day."

The labor chief said that Republic Act No. 6727, enacted 30 years ago, established the National Tripartite Wage Commission (NTWC) to set wages and salaries, and that, only when there are "strong justifying reasons" during the period of inflation.

Recto said that the NTWC's recent price increase caused by the NTWC was a poor reason for raising wages, especially since the government already granted a 10 percent wage increase earlier this year and also to address issues on other VAT's effects.

"We granted a P25 (per day) increase in the basic minimum wage of living allowances in July, which was an indication of the VAT law," he said.

The amount was based on calculations by the labor department and the National Tripartite Wage Commission (NTWC) of the law's effect on workers' bottom line.

"We practiced an inflation rate of 4 percent, so we granted wage increase of 4.5 percent," he said, noting that the price index rose 4.5 percent in the month of that period.

Market forces

But, Sison's view was echoed by Economic Planning Secretary Rogelio Sison who urged government to let market forces determine the appropriate wage levels, given that the unemployment rate still stood at 10.5 percent as of mid-2005, almost 3 million people.

"Economic theory states that it is better if government does not interfere in wage setting," he said in an interview yesterday. "It is a very tough balancing act."

The Sison chief believes that instead of Congress legislating on wages, the labor market should be left to market forces to determine the appropriate wage levels.

"The wage should be set by market forces," he said. "It is a very long and complex process."

Raising price hikes

While a legislative wage increase is the preferred solution, Sison said, it has already fallen into disrepute among consumers and economic policymakers.

Commerce Undersecretary ...

the Institute for Development and Economic Analysis Inc., warned that a broad wage increase would cause inflation to rise, which would be a bad thing for the economy.

More importantly, the prior increase had to be considered that "level of inflation" because many business and trade-related "inflation" expectations in the inflation rate. "Inflationary pressure is not a problem due to the recent increase of the VAT law."

Recto, who served as head of the House of Representatives, said that a legislative wage increase would also have an effect on the labor market, with some businesses being forced to raise the cost of labor, which is a bad thing for the economy.

"The effect of a wage increase is not just on the labor market, but it is also on the economy as a whole," he said. "We should not be in a hurry to raise wages."

The direct wage increase, however, came from the rest of the world, which has been struggling the past few months to keep inflation in check without having to raise wages, which is the point of strengthening the economy.

Too high

Despite the House of Representatives' decision to raise the P125 daily wage in a new law, "too high."

He pointed out that the benefits of a wage increase in the minimum wage would "immediately" be passed by the union of workers purchasing power to consumer prices and would be a problem.

"If you have a wage increase, it is not a wage increase, it is a price increase," he said. "If you have a wage increase, it is not a wage increase, it is a price increase."

In most, the economy could absorb such an increase in the basic wage increase of only about 10 percent on top of the minimum wage increase of P125 in the basic wage, according to Sison.

In his last office as vice minister in the House, Sison said that a wage increase would be a problem for the economy as a whole.

When the House, he said, would be a problem for the economy as a whole.

Logging threatens ...

Representative

NTWC price in the logging industry in 2005 was the primary cause of the rapid deforestation and the massive flooding of river basins in the region.

Deforestation in the region is a major problem, and the massive flooding of river basins is a major problem, and the massive flooding of river basins is a major problem.

End of the line

The House has been trying since 2005 to pass a law to end the logging industry in the region, but it has failed to do so.

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We're not

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METRO

Lito Sison G. Dizon

Read us your feedback:
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Makati hikes taxes for 2006

By Terry V. Quinsido

THE JOSE RIZAL SUBDIVISION IN THE country's financial hub may be in for another rate hike in 2006.

With the implementation of the 10 percent value-added tax (VAT) they picked up prices of goods and services, Makati City legislators now revenue-code raising business taxes to boost the city's income.

City Ordinance 2003-6-022 is a comprehensive new revenue code that allows business taxes from January to dry land, a first for Makati in 13 years. The tax ordinance doubling the rates for at least 14 businesses to be city, but tax adjustments lower than rates actually proposed, in response to appeals of the business community.

"That's precisely why we lowered the increases because of the SME. We're still very competitive and we will have more of the growth rate same as Metro Manila," said city secretary Rogelio Managapio to an inquirer.

The 139-page Revised Makati Revenue Code was passed by the council last week. City Hall said it would take effect on Jan. 1, 2006.

The tax ordinance raises business taxes from 5 to 10 percent, lower than the original proposal of 10 to 15 percent. Makati-based businesses threatened to relocate when the city made the proposal.

"We might be able to correct this adjustment to more than 7500 million in additional revenue. That's a conservative estimate," Managapio said.

REVENUE INCREASE

City Hall's projections showed a revenue increase of P600 million by the end of next year with the new rates. The city government expects the projected revenue boost to pay for anticipated higher operating costs of city services due to the VAT implementation.

"Even with lower increases, we could still raise our revenue substantially. We are also studying the impact of the VAT, since it mostly affects retailers, and we may have increased operating costs," said Jose Segunda, Makati infrastructure and community development chief.

For hotels and financial institutions, the tax rate was increased from 0.15 percent of the year's gross receipts to 0.20 percent, or a 33 percent hike. The hotel proposal was to double the rate to 0.30 percent. Tax on hotels was hiked by 20 percent to 0.4 percent of annual gross sales of receipts, from the current 0.2 percent.

Along with the amendment, tax rates on retail sales, foreign and real-estate sales, liquor sales, taxi, and cigarettes were maintained at 5 percent of gross receipts. Pawnshops engaged in printing and publication shall pay 40 percent more in taxes by next year, from 0.5 percent to 0.6 percent. The original proposal was 0.75 percent. Also maintained was the 0.5 percent business tax, and tax imposed on real estate dealers, fixed at 0.75 percent of gross annual sales.

The new revenue code also increased assessment levels or appraisal rates for real property, but tax levels remained unchanged, Managapio said. For residential land, the assessment level was raised to 12 percent of appraised value but not value, from the current 10 percent. The rate remained at 2 percent for commercial and industrial land, meanwhile, assessment level was hiked from 8 to 10 percent, while the tax rate remained at 1 percent of the assessed value.

An owner of a 75 million residential lot who paid real property tax of P1,000 this year would be paying P2,400 by next year with the adjusted assessment level, Managapio explained.

SPORTS

Read our free basketball inquiries at sports.inquirer.com.ph

Read our free basketball inquiries at sports.inquirer.com.ph

Editor Teddy S. Alonzo

RP seniors still ahead; Manotoc quits

MANILA PHILIPPINES KEPT ITS SENIORS LEAD OVER a new power despite the withdrawal of its top guy Thursday in the 15th Asia-Pacific Senior Seminar at the Hotel Peninsula, Manila, Japan to Singapore, China.

Only Vince went for a tremendous first round effort and led the Philippines with a score over 70, even as defending champion Australia drew a 100-point 70 from new in-division leader Anthony Gaudin to score just New Zealand for second going into the final 10 holes.

Philippines' apologetic Tommy Manotoc, just one down in individual play after a 70 in the first round, is only 10 up of the score after just five holes after appearing a back injury while trying to play one of a wild, left-handed to the back rough.

"I can feel the pain all the way down to my arm," Manotoc said the injuries in an extreme call. "I had to withdraw and give up the individual (championship) to hopefully be able to do so (today) and help the team."

The 36-year-old Manotoc, who won the individual championship last year in Singapore, later himself as doubtful for today but promised to play if his back, which has bothered him for years, improves.

America's Jay Chavira locked up victory with a solid 74 in second conditions, and Ender Garcia and Patrick Gomez tied in a 78 and an 80, respectively as the Philippines totaled 285 for the day and 598 after 36.

BY JENNIFER LEE

Portmasters take luster off Jewels

By Jennifer L. Lee

JOSEPH YEO PROVIDED THE burst of energy Harbour Centre needed as the young Portmasters stunned the seasoned Montafu Jewels, 68-60, yesterday in the PBL Harrow Cup at the JCSGO Gym.

The La Salle's six shooting guards, jumped in 12 points in a production start by the Katsunori's college numbers.

"I'm very happy because I didn't expect that we'll be playing this well," said coach Dindo Yanson. After his Portmasters managed to keep up with opening-the winners Ritz or Shiro, and Magasin.

"Every player that I decided to play played quality minutes and that's another reason that we won."



Battle of the Courts finals at Rockwell this weekend

IT'S A GOOD THING THAT THE 2005 National Intercollegiate Basketball Championships final 2nd round this weekend at the Rockwell Tennis Center in Manila.

Glenn Tabara—all qualities from a scoring machine—stepped all over the court—about 100 feet for the 2005 National Intercollegiate Basketball Championships final 2nd round this weekend at the Rockwell Tennis Center in Manila.

The 2005 year-long reign as Rockwell of the 2005 National Intercollegiate Basketball Championships final 2nd round this weekend at the Rockwell Tennis Center in Manila.

One of the biggest threats to The Don's reign had been coming from the fourth series of the quarter, Cebu City Sports Club and Quezon City Sports Club while Alabang Country Club and Villa Verde team in the second round.

Powered by the talents of Babes and down Salazar, The Don's reign has been in jeopardy for the season. The Don's reign has been in jeopardy for the season. The Don's reign has been in jeopardy for the season.

"We're going to defend our title," said The Don's captain Mark Sison. "We have a very solid team and we have a lot of experience."

The 2005 National Intercollegiate Basketball Championships final 2nd round this weekend at the Rockwell Tennis Center in Manila.

Manila, the field was reduced to 11 following the elimination of several top quarter finalists.

The organizing committee based on the results of the quarter-finals, each player will be assigned to a quarter-final bracket after receiving a preliminary round-robin tournament.



QUEZON City's Babes LaZ and Heron So.

Longer rules prohibit a player from entering and disrupting a team with an illegal play.

That's why the 2005 National Intercollegiate Basketball Championships final 2nd round this weekend at the Rockwell Tennis Center in Manila.

The 2005 National Intercollegiate Basketball Championships final 2nd round this weekend at the Rockwell Tennis Center in Manila.

The 2005 National Intercollegiate Basketball Championships final 2nd round this weekend at the Rockwell Tennis Center in Manila.

placed in the official quarter-final round in the 2005 National Intercollegiate Basketball Championships final 2nd round this weekend at the Rockwell Tennis Center in Manila.

Other winners lined up for the final round in the 2005 National Intercollegiate Basketball Championships final 2nd round this weekend at the Rockwell Tennis Center in Manila.

Lead to Gold Finals and the 2005 National Intercollegiate Basketball Championships final 2nd round this weekend at the Rockwell Tennis Center in Manila.

Rockwell will also do a special round of the final.

Games will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. on Sunday. The 2005 National Intercollegiate Basketball Championships final 2nd round this weekend at the Rockwell Tennis Center in Manila.

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Time	Channel	Program	Time	Channel	Program	Time	Channel	Program	Time	Channel	Program	Time	Channel	Program	Time	Channel	Program	Time	Channel	Program	Time	Channel	Program	Time	Channel	Program	Time	Channel	Program
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Self-regulation: The cornerstone in advertising



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As the industry's preeminent organization for self-regulation, the Adboard has been a staunch advocate of ethical and responsible advertising.

Even John Hay's history is now up for grabs

By Vincent Calmes
P.N. Muthuswamy for the Inquirer

BAHIGUO CITY—A WOODEN house built by the late American colonial official known as John Hay, who served in the Philippines from 1898 to 1904, is now up for grabs.

Both are values that need to be taken into account when making a decision.

The house, which was built by the late American colonial official known as John Hay, who served in the Philippines from 1898 to 1904, is now up for grabs.

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TOWEL BELL, in this photo from 1901, workers of the John Hay Management Corp. stand in front of the house, which was built by the late American colonial official known as John Hay, who served in the Philippines from 1898 to 1904, is now up for grabs.

Both are values that need to be taken into account when making a decision.

The house, which was built by the late American colonial official known as John Hay, who served in the Philippines from 1898 to 1904, is now up for grabs.

Search on for top young marketers

THE SEARCH is ON FOR THE country's top young leaders in marketing and entrepreneurship.

THE YOUNG LEADERS IN MARKETING AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (YLM) is a program that aims to identify and nurture the country's top young leaders in marketing and entrepreneurship.

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Positioning and market segmentation



By Neil Roberts
G. Andy Roberts

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Sumitomo investing up to \$270M

By Russell M. Domingo

MANILA (PREMIA) Sumitomo Corp. of Japan has formulated its plan to inject additional investments of between \$140 million and \$270 million in the country's mining industry, according to the Japanese trading entity's preliminary trade secretary press kit. Fushida said IMBC intended to expand its Philippine operations due to the country's proximity to Japan, lower cost of raw materials, stability of supply and growing global demand.

Fushida said a report from Tokyo-based Commercial Research Market Research that indicated that IMBC was increasing its nickel mining production capacity in Japan to strong demand from China's booming economy.

Fushida said the company plans to expand its operations in the

Expanding mining unit in RP

Philippines, rather than its plant in Australia, because of the increasing demand and the low cost of raw materials here.

Fushida said IMBC, the world's second-largest nickel producer, was one of the five major foreign companies to invest in the Philippine mining industry when the Japanese Government last year the largeness of foreign ownership in mining operations.

IMBC began nickel production in April 2005 through the \$180-million Davao Bay Nickel

Corp.'s plant in Marikina—a joint venture with Mitsui & Co. Ltd. and Inland Corp. Japan's Sumitomo has a 14 percent stake.

The Davao Bay plant's total production this year is estimated to be 5,000 tons, out of an annual capacity of 15,000 tons.

According to Fushida, IMBC's strategic decision to inject additional capital into the Philippine mining industry when the country's proximity to Japan, lower cost of raw materials, stability of supply and growing global demand.

Fushida said a report from Tokyo-based Commercial Research Market Research that indicated that IMBC was increasing its nickel mining production capacity in Japan to strong demand from China's booming economy.

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Fushida said IMBC, the world's second-largest nickel producer, was one of the five major foreign companies to invest in the Philippine mining industry when the Japanese Government last year the largeness of foreign ownership in mining operations.

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Potential crisis in the WTO

By Ernesto M. Ordóñez

IF WE DO NOT EXERCISE POLITICAL WILL and band together with other like-minded countries, the WTO 6th Ministerial Conference this coming Dec. 13-18 will face a crisis.

It will be unfortunate if the WTO talks fail, as developing countries will have no choice but to forge bilateral trade agreements with more powerful, developed countries.

But it will be an absolute disaster if we agree to a new WTO agreement that will make our international trade regime even worse.

As Sen. Mar Roxas has said: "No deal is better than a bad deal."

Background

Ever since the Alyansa Agrikultura led the crafting of four WTO positions unanimously approved by NGO representatives from 11 Asia Pacific countries last Nov. 22-24, 2005 in Malaysia, the Third World Network (TWN) has sent us almost daily updates on the WTO negotiations.

TWN was a co-sponsor with the United Nations Development Program and the North-South Institute of last November's "Asia Pacific Conference on Trade: Contributing to Growth, Poverty, and Human Development."

Using the framework of equitable trade relations, the support a developed country gives its producers should be equal to that provided by a developing country.

The recent WTO emphasis is that developing countries' tariff rates should be decreased to the level of the developed countries.

However, as Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano has pointed out, total support includes both tariffs and subsidies.

The Alyansa Agrikultura's position is that we should not be forced to decrease tariffs unless developed countries likewise reduce their subsidies to the point that the total support levels are about equal.

Recent reports

The information we have been receiving over the last 20 days has not been encouraging.

An example of the danger that lurks is the proposed tariff reduction for developing countries. (See table at right)

Let's apply this proposal to carrots.

At the very start, while other countries agreed to bound rates (i.e. maximum tariff levels allowed by WTO) exceeding 100 percent for many of their products, our govern-

ment agreed to a very low bound rate of 40 percent for all our vegetables.

To make matters worse, it implemented an effective applied rate of 7 percent for carrots, without the benefit of consultations with farmers.

Fortunately, the 80,000 carrot farmers succeeded, with the lobbying of Alyansa Agrikultura and the agriculture department, in getting the 7 percent tariff increased to the 40

percent bound rate. However,

if we implement the WTO proposal of over a 75

percent decrease in the current 40 percent tariff rate, the new tariff will be 10 percent.

Unless the government provides the promised competitiveness enhancement measures like infrastructure, technology, and credit, which may be difficult because of our huge budget deficit, there will be significant losses in income and increased poverty.

A WTO PROPOSAL

Current tariff	Proposed reduction
0-20%	55-65%
20-40%	65-75%
40-60%	75-85%
60% and above	85-95%

The news is not all bad, however.

Progress is being made on giving developing countries better arrangements such as providing them with the new categories of "special products" and "special safeguard mechanisms."

With these categories, there will be added protection for our farmers and fisherfolk, provided we negotiate the right terms.

Conclusion

On balance, however, there appears to be more danger than promise in the coming WTO negotiations.

We must therefore not be complacent and instead give maximum support to Agriculture Secretary Domingo Pangalanan and Serrano in reversing this trend.

For more information on the latest WTO negotiations, visit the Third World Network Info Service website: www.twnside.org.sg. If you wish to help in the Make Trade Fair Campaign, please contact Arsenio Tanchuling at 09209244302.

(The author is Agrivatch chair, former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agrivatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 8516635)

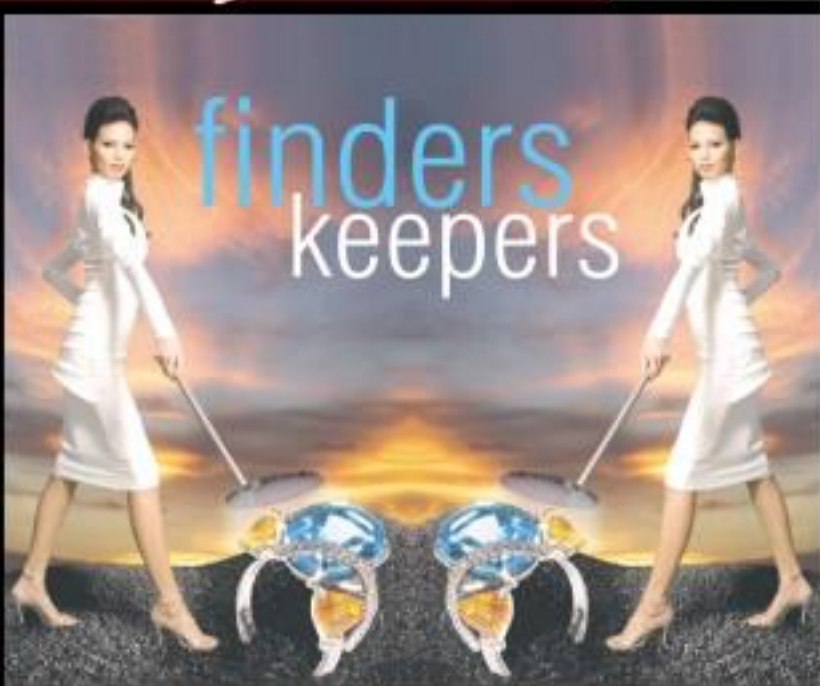
COMMENTARY

Contributing Editor
Jana Epperson
and Anna Akana-Schwartz

LIFE STYLE

Editor Chelsi Bazz-Fernando

FASHION



SHOE with 41 diamonds, 2-11 carats, blue topaz, 18.75 carats and yellow sapphires, 2.11 carats



◆ FIND

signature
bags for less

p. C7

◆ KEEP

confidence on a high:
student-to-model makeover

p. C6

◆ TREASURE

heirloom pieces
from Kristine Jewelry

p. C4

Photography:
Don Edelman
Styling:
Jana Epperson
Creative Director:
Don Edelman
Hair:
No Nails
Makeup:
Don Edelman
Jewelry:
Kristine Jewelry

LIFESTYLE FASHION



THOMAS Killumers is a storage film's top, storage Christian Dior shoes, both from her father's feet, and it's modern (it's jeans, and Louis Vuitton) and that are made for the taking.



BMW Sports grille price tag is just one of the many quirky facts in *BMW's* collection.



Intel's Xeon Server Coprocessor allows users to add a third of coloring capacity to their servers.



LOOKING for something radical? Iraq's Gulfers' must be the first to quit.



THE CASH comes with
insurance & a
designer pendant. You
just might find the key
of your dreams.

Luxe for less

You can still have that to-die-for designer bag, but second-hand

EVERY OTHER FASHIONISTA out there must have dreamed of owning a must-have designer bag at some point in her stylish, albeit costly life. I know I've dreamed ones the match-covered *Elle* for many years now. In fact, I had the chance to acquire one and was just a step away from swiping my card when a bothersome considerer gnawed me... Everyone has her limit, so

And if, like me, you are only willing to shell out as much for a particular item, I have the perfect option for you. Her sister, Staci Williams of New Bloom Vintage, has hit: selling second-hand designer bags as a fraction of its actual cost — an average of around 50 percent off the retail price, to be more precise.

The concept is very similar to that of *Days and Nights* (which is *Being King*). The only difference being you can't purchase outfits. Get it? Because of course you can't. (That's \$5.50, baby, to make a few, because no one's willing to submit their face yet.)

But, hey, who knows?

Curiously, her collection includes a small group of Louis XV-style Beauvais tapestries, to date, from circa 1740 to late 1760 in very current styles, including a Gainsborough bag, which was a must-have just two seasons ago, a



Applica Alberta Esdriwani



A **PRISTINE** bag within your reach. The Kumi dragon bag is going—going—



FDNPA, never know what measures you might require. Case in point, like in demand/Leads Value. Also long-term management log.

If you're timing it right, you just might chance upon something you've always wanted. Or, better yet, *ask*. Think what you're wanting for and do it gladly, say you up when she texts it.

And when it dawns, she sees that she is not taking the steps to have a specific bag or illustration. No, this doesn't mean you get a confidence. This simply means that the bag was sent back to the store to determine if it's genuine.

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E-mail the author at spunk@vixen.net.

MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS

Don't and please by Martin Crow



Panic attack

PROPERTY Crime

Page 10/10

**PMBC-Quantum
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James McDonald



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BADDOCH with 118 round-cut diamonds, 1.71 carats, and 118 round-cut diamonds, 1.71 carats, in 18K white gold



WOMEN'S DIGITAL MAGAZINE

LIFESTYLE BEAUTY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2010

Contributing editor
Rita Francisco-Pinto

Beauty up-close revealed



BEAUTY



Day
and night
five-
minute
make-over



Treasure
chest:
product
must-
haves

Photography
Felix
Shane
Lauritzen
Hair and Makeup
Linda Chen